

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed February 23, 2005 has been received and reviewed. Claims 1, 2, 4 through 15, 21, and 22 through 24 are noted as pending in the Office Action. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6 through 9, 12 through 15, 21, 22, and 24 are rejected. Claims 5, 10, and 11 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form (Office Action at page 3).

Claims 5, 7, 10, 12 through 15, 21, 22, and 24 are amended herein, claims 1, 2, 4, 8, and 9 are canceled, and new claims 28 through 35 are added. Claims 3, 16 through 20, and 23 were earlier canceled. Reconsideration of the application as amended is thus respectfully requested.

Applicants note that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph have been withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 12-15, 21, 22 and 24 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as assertedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,559,099 to Wickham et al. Claims 1, 2, 4, 8 and 9 are canceled, rendering this rejection moot as to them.

Claim 5 was noted in the Office Action as being allowable if amended to independent form and has been amended to independent form herein, as discussed previously herein. Claim 6 and amended claim 7 depend from amended claim 5, and it is requested they be allowed.

Similarly, claim 10 was noted in the Office Action as being allowable if amended to independent form and has been amended to independent form herein. Claims 12 through 15, 21, 22 and 24 are amended herein to depend from amended claim 10, and their allowance is requested.

New Claims 28 through 35

Claims 25, 26 and 27 depend from amended independent claim 5. As discussed previously herein, claim 5 was indicated as allowable in the Office Action, if amended to be in independent form. The allowance of these additional dependent claims is requested.

Claims 28 through 32 are directed to a targeted gene delivery vehicle complex. Independent claim 28 includes elements similar to those of amended claims 5 and 10, and is thus similarly allowable, as are the claims dependent therefrom.

Claims 33 through 35 are directed to a gene delivery vehicle. Independent claim 33 includes elements similar to those of amended claims 5 and 10, and is thus similarly allowable, as are the claims dependent therefrom.

CONCLUSION

All pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Office determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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